

THE FREE LANCE published tri-weekly as an independent newspaper, is located at 208 Commerce (or William st.), Fredericksburg, Virginia, and is issued on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings by "The Free Lance Newspaper, Book and Job Printing Company of Fredericksburg, Virginia."

Its Subscription Terms are \$1.50 per year, \$1.00 for 6 months, 75 cents for 3 months, or 50 cents for 1 month.

Its advertising rates are for one square of ten lines or less, first insertion, 50 cents, and 25 cents for each additional insertion. 100,000 per copy for each additional insertion. 100,000 per copy for each additional insertion. 100,000 per copy for each additional insertion.

Resolutions of respect to deceased members passed by societies, corporations, associations, or other organizations will be invariably charged for as advertising matter.

All communications of every character should be addressed to "THE FREE LANCE," Fredericksburg, Va.

Weather forecast for Fredericksburg and vicinity.  
Fair Saturday. Continued cold until Sunday night, light to fresh west to north winds.

"Tis midnight's holy hour, and silence now  
Is brooding like a gentle spirit, o'er  
The still and pulseless world.

It is the end of the dying year, and the last year, but one, of the dying century. We sit musing before the bright firelight, counting the mileposts past, and asking the ever to be answered question, what has the future for us? Father Time, remorseless time, sweeps onward and neither jubilation songs nor solemn dirges of those "who fall in the battle of life" can stay him in his onward march.

He passes not, either for the victor or the vanquished, but every fleeting moment he drops an answer to some momentous question; and every rolling hour he raises some new and mighty issue to be solved.

Out of the deep we cry, "through all this changing world of changeless law," and the only answer is the echo of our resounding cry. We plan, we scheme, we struggle, we build our hopes on what seems the surest foundations, but time comes with its "nipping frosts" and we see our fondest hopes blighted and destroyed. Where was the weak point in the structure? Where have we failed to build aright? Have we strength for other efforts, and for still others? We can simply say with Goethe, "Life's a battle, I'm a man; be this enough."

In our youth, we all have dreamed dreams. We have entered life's battle with a simple faith in our ability to conquer, and with a trustfulness in men, intuitively recognizing that "There is nothing so kindly as kindness and nothing so royal as truth," and yet after time had borne us past a few mileposts we have found that friends sometimes have failed us, and sometimes we have found that friends sometimes have failed us, and sometimes we have found that friends sometimes have failed us.

As with individuals, so with nations. The first year of this century witnessed two of the greatest men the world has ever produced facing each other. Napoleon Bonaparte, the Corsican, was first consul of the French republic; Thomas Jefferson, the Virginian, was President of the United States of America.

Evidently, when Napoleon secretly acquired Louisiana from Spain, his ambition had begun to reach out and long for power in the young and growing West. But European complications and the statesmanlike diplomacy of Jefferson compelled him to sell Louisiana to the United States. Hawthorne says: "The truly American government began with Jefferson, for it was under him that the authority of the people was first fully and practically recognized." If this be true, then the American government began with the birth of this century—in any event it was then only in its swaddling clothes—a child in age and a child in strength. But what is it to-day? It is leading all in science, in the arts, in inventions, in manufactures and in riches. Compare it with the republic of which Napoleon was the first consul—that consulate lasted but five years and gave way to the empire. Our little republic, composed of a few million souls, inaugurated along the Atlantic coast, has spread from ocean to ocean, and today is the mightiest power upon the face of the globe. Why has one lasted and waxed great, and the other so quickly ended? Let a great Frenchman, Lamartine, answer. He said: "Because the one was built upon the eternal principles of God's truth, and the other upon skepticism and the doubting of all truth." Mirabeau, dying of the wound of the one, when dying called his men about him and cried, "Cover me with flowers, intoxicate me with sweet perfumes and let me die to the sound of delicious music!" but Washington and Franklin died committing their souls and their country's future to their God. "With men so with nations!"

What will the next hundred years bring to this great Republic of ours? Who can answer? Out of the deep we cry, "Life's a battle, I'm a man; be this enough."

Now that the holidays are over, the committee of the City Council, headed by Recorder Willis, which is charged with formulating a plan or plans for the reception and entertainment, as well as fixing the date for the meeting here early next summer of the Army of the Potomac, ought to hold a session and be prepared to submit a report to the City Council at its regular meeting Thursday, January 18th, 1900. There is no time to be lost if the matter is to be a success.

2,500,000 TO BAPTIST SOCIETIES.  
Will of Daniel Sharp Ford, Publisher of the Youth's Companion.

Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 28.—The will of the late Daniel Sharp Ford, publisher of the Youth's Companion, filed for probate in the Middlesex County Probate Court to-day, disposes of an estate of about \$2,500,000. The will, which is dated October 21, 1898, gives \$77,000 direct to public charitable and religious institutions and provides that the income from several thousand dollars shall be available for similar use.

The will also bequeaths \$350,000 to the Baptist Social Union, subject to conditions. The entire Youth's Companion plant, with certain real estate is left to the executors, to be administered for the benefit of the Baptist Social Union.

Of the residue one-sixth goes to the American Baptist Home Mission Union and one-fifth each to the Massachusetts Baptist Convention for Free Baptist Churches, Massachusetts Charitable Baptist Society, Conference of Baptist Ministers in Massachusetts, the Maine Baptist Convention, New Hampshire Baptist Convention, and Vermont Baptist Convention.

cry and the echo alone is our answer. Have we, like our great prototype, the Roman Republic, already entered upon the beginning of our decadence? Has already the canker begun to eat at the heart? Are the words of warning, now so often raised, as if in prophetic cry, but the wailings of easily frightened old women? Have we grown so "great, so powerful, so rich, that the citizen, the basic power of all true greatness, is lost sight of, in our spirit of commercialism and our blind worship of Mammon? Have we outgrown, or should we outgrow, the simplicity of Jefferson's teachings and philosophy?

These are questions that arise and crowd upon us at this hour. Who can answer them? Time, time, alone. Hour by hour, year by year, they will be answered. This century has been the greatest, and most wonderful, in all respects, in the world's history? What will the next one be? But we repeat, "As with men so with nations."

The nation that conquers within, the nation that remains true to the principles of right and justice and truth, is the nation that will endure and prosper. God reigns.

"There's a hand on the rudder that will not flinch  
There's no fear in the pilot's face  
As he guides the world, like boats in a storm.

Through the rocking seas of space;  
And whether they make the harbor at last  
Beyond the shoals and the swell,  
Or sail forever a shoreless sea,  
I know that all is well;  
And I learn these things from the heart  
Of the wood,

For never a bird in a wire-bound cage  
Told all these things to me."

To The Free Lance:  
The August Alumni Bulletin of the University of Virginia contains an article by Professor Mallet on the proposed hospital for the University. The University Medical School has made a wonderful record for itself without the aid of a hospital. It has furnished more medical men to the army and navy than any other medical school. The medical graduates of the University have taken a high stand all over the world. Many of the leading medical men of this country are university graduates. I think it is time for the State of Virginia to have a general hospital. Nearly all the States have one. Many people die in Virginia each year for the need of proper medical care, particularly in the country. It would be but a small additional expense to each county, and in time it could be made nearly self-supporting. The university is an ideal place for a hospital, and its medical school is the admiration of the medical world.

December 27, '99.  
The Free Lance publishes the foregoing, which is from a very eminent medical man residing in a large city outside of the State, with its cordial endorsement. Perhaps the Richmond Times, which is very friendly to the University, may see fit to copy it, with a word additional.

It is reported here that the following ticket for State officers has been slated by a number of prominent Democratic leaders: For Governor, Congressman Claude A. Swanson; Lieutenant-Governor, State Senator Maynard of Portsmouth; Attorney-General, Capt. Francis R. Lassiter, of Petersburg.—Telegram from Richmond.

The foregoing means that "the influences" which prevailed in the recent State election have most probably fixed upon this ticket. There is but one combination that can possibly beat it, i. e. Edward Echols for Governor, George W. LeCato for Lieut.-Governor and A. J. Montague for Attorney General, and it must be the "whole hog or none."

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Richmond Item.  
Some of the friends of Congressman Swanson are placing on Hon. J. Taylor Elyson the responsibility for drawing the line against the Independents in the Boykin-Shands Senatorial contest. Both of these gentlemen are avowed aspirants for the gubernatorial nomination. Mr. Elyson, who is chairman of the Democratic State Committee, declares that he and Mr. Swanson were on the same footing in their attitude on the Boykin fight. The Congressman, Mr. Elyson points out, was the author of the resolution adopted by the State Committee recognizing Colonel Boykin as the party nominee in that fight.

Story of an Immense Banking Consolidation in New York.  
The New York Journal says that Secretary Gage is to become the head of a "money trust."

"When he leaves the United States Treasury," says the Journal, "he will enter into relations which are intended to culminate in the establishment of an institution which shall be as nearly as possible to this country what the bank of England is to Great Britain."

"The scheme includes the consolidation of the National City Bank, which has been so greatly favored by Secretary Gage; the Hanover National Bank, and a smaller bank whose identity is at present kept a secret."

"This institution will be called the National Bank of the United States and is intended to become the fiscal agent of the Government."

"This is the secret of the extremely friendly relations which the Secretary maintains with the Rockefeller, the Havemeyer, J. Pierpont Morgan and the other men of millions who are interested in the City Bank."

"When the consolidation is effected and Secretary Gage placed at the head of the new bank these men figure that they will be in a position to rule the finances of the country, and practically dictate the policy of the United States Treasury."

"The favors already shown by the Administration to the National City Bank would seem to show that their trust of these trusts is not misplaced. The bank acted as receiver of the money paid to the Government by the Pacific railroad. The bank acted as the representative of the Government in the payment of the \$20,000,000 to Spain for the Philippine Islands. The bank has been the favored depository of the Government funds, having control of one-fifth of all the Government money deposited in all the banks of the country. And as a final marked favor, the bank has been designated by Secretary Gage as the disbursing agent for the national internal revenue receipts, amounting to about \$1,000,000 a day."

"It was to further the ends of the trusts that the bank brought the old Customhouse building. It will cost \$2,000,000 to remodel and furnish its interior, and even more to build an edifice expressive of the bank's new relation to the business world."

"The last sale of the National City Bank shares was at \$2.00 for a \$100 share. The 'book value,' based upon the actual surplus to be divided if the bank were to go into liquidation, is nearer \$500. The difference between that and \$2.00 represents the value of the good will and prospective earning power."

"Its foreign exchange business is an example of what its growth has been. The bank handles for the Standard Oil Trust all the banking business growing out of its exports of petroleum amounting to \$99,000,000 in 11 months of this year."

"The Hanover is controlled by the same powers which control the National City. They are closely leagued and one acts as feeder for the other."

"The story of the proposed consolidation is denied by President Stillman, of the National City. He calls it a fairy tale."

"When the Amalgamated Copper Company was established by the Standard Oil men they also denied for a time that they intended to absorb all the copper mines of the country."

Prevented a Tragedy.  
Timely information given Mrs. George Long, of New Straitsville, Ohio, prevented a dreadful tragedy and saved two lives. A frightful cough had long kept her awake every night. She had tried many remedies and doctors but steadily grew worse until urged to try Dr. King's New Discovery. One bottle wholly cured her, and writes this marvelous medicine also cured Mr. Long of a severe attack of pneumonia. Such cures are positive proof of the matchless merit of this grand remedy for curing all throat, chest and lung troubles. Only 50c and \$1.00. Every bottle guaranteed. Trial bottles free at M. M. Lewis' Drug Store.

Reunited After 54 Years.  
Suffolk, Va., Dec. 28.—After living as strangers for fifty-four years, Boston Bryant, sixty-six years old, will be reunited to his twin sister before the year 1900 is closed.

Boston is the venerable colored sexton of the Suffolk Christian Church, of whose pastor, Dr. W. W. Staley, he is the special friend and protégé. Boston and Dr. Staley are both Tarsels by birth.

The life drama enacted by Boston and his twin sister, Eliza Bryant, was made possible by slave-day customs. Way back in the early forties they were a happy pair of pickaninnies on a big North Carolina plantation. Their owner loved his slaves. He was also fond of wine and fast living. He was finally forced to sell one of his human holdings every year to maintain his style of living.

It so came out that the twins were separated by sale about the year 1845, when they were twelve years old. They grew to manhood and womanhood without knowing each other's whereabouts.

Some days ago Eliza, whose last name is Gatliff now, heard that Boston was in Suffolk. She wrote a letter to inquiry, and now Boston expects to meet his sister at her home in Corville, N. C., by Friday morning.

WESTMORELAND.  
Christmas Enjoyment—Other Items of Interest.

(Correspondence of The Free Lance.)  
Oak Grove, Va., Dec. 27th, '99.  
Christmas dawned upon this bright little village most cheerily, and every one we have heard of has been enjoying the season to the fullest. The mild, bright weather and excellent roads have been conducive to the enjoyment of all, and, as usual, sociability has been much enjoyed. The snow today, however, has to some extent interfered with the plans of some of our people, specially with the young folks who were enthusiastically anticipating an evening of pleasure at our town hall, the occasion being an entertainment given by the juvenile portion of our community. Then, too, the snow disappoints the skaters, whose hopes had risen high with the coming of the cold wave this week.

Christmas day at 11:30 Rev. Mr. Latane held divine services at St. Peter's church, and preached an earnest and appropriate sermon to a large congregation. The remainder of the day was spent by our people generally in family reunions and social gatherings.

Tuesday Mr. and Mrs. John E. Wilson, of "Wakefield," gave a charming "progressive guessing" party and luncheon in honor of their granddaughter, Miss Janet Latane. A large number of persons were present, and the occasion was one of great enjoyment to all who participated. The guessing was very spirited and created much fun. The first prize, consisting of a box of choice confectioneries, was won by Mr. James Q. Stiff, while the booby prize was awarded Mrs. Wallace Montgomery. The delightful hospitality of this charming family is so well known, and "Wakefield" is so renowned that it is not necessary to comment on the courtesies and pleasures one always receives when under this historic roof. All who visit "Wakefield" are sure of an enjoyable time. Among the visitors present from a distance were Dr. Richard Latane, Ware, of Essex county, and Dr. John P. Stiff, of Warsaw.

Mr. and Mrs. Wirt Washington are spending the holidays with Hon. Robt. J. Washington and family at "Camp-Newton." They are accompanied by a friend from Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wirt, of "Wirtland," left some days since for Baltimore, where they are spending Christmas with Mr. Wirt's sister, Mrs. L. Engle.

Mr. and Mrs. George Washington had anticipated spending Christmas in Baltimore also, but were unavoidably prevented.

Miss Minnie and Maggie Quisenberry, of King George, are guests of Mr. Walter Stiff and family here.

Miss Julia Taylor, who has been absent teaching, is spending Christmas at home.

Miss Florence Wharton is also home for the holidays.

Mr. Martin, of Woodstock, Va., arrived here yesterday to visit a certain fair lady, who is teaching in this section. We hope he will enjoy every moment of his stay in our neighborhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Baxter will give a masquerade party at our town hall Thursday evening. Many invitations have been sent out, and a fine time is anticipated.

Mr. and Mrs. David Griffith will entertain a number of their friends Friday evening.

Miss Ruth Stiff arrived some days ago, and will spend the winter at home.

Mr. Van Horn has taken Mr. Roger Boggs' place as clerk for Mr. Baxter.

Mrs. Susan Thompson had a family reunion on Christmas day.

The Christmas tree at St. Peter's church today was very pretty and much enjoyed by the young folks as well as the older ones.

The Sunday school of the Baptist church will have their tree later in the week.

We wish The Free Lance and all its readers a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

COURTED HER BY MAIL.  
How a Newport News Editor is Said to Have Won a Bride.

A dispatch to the New York World from Detroit, Mich., says:  
"W. F. Leath, an editor from Newport News, Va., and Miss Anette Morgan, a teacher of Flint, Mich., were married yesterday at Smith. Mr. Leath won his bride by correspondence and was drawn to her in the first instance by a picture of her cousin. He wrote to the cousin, the cousin turned the letter over to the editor and in a year's time the editor had won her hand and heart."

The town of Smith celebrated the wedding today with fireworks and the ringing of church bells. Mr. Leath and his bride will visit Florida and Cuba before going to their future home at Newport News.

An Important Decision.  
United States Circuit Judge Simonon has handed down a decision in the case of Granby Mercantile Company of Columbia, S. C., against Webster, collector of internal revenue, which involves a very interesting question of law and will add considerably to the war taxes, if all the mills have the same system of paying hands as some of those in this State.

Briefly stated the Mercantile Company sold goods to Granby Mill operatives and the accounts when presented to the treasurer of the mill were paid out of moneys due the operatives. In order to protect itself the Mercantile Company took vouchers for each account, and under the stamp law Collector Webster held that a revenue stamp had to be attached to each and every order. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue sustained the collector, and the Mercantile Company paid two cent on 15,847 orders. Subsequently suit was brought for the return of the amount, but it has been refused by the court and the complaint dismissed.

Faughler News.  
Mr. Leander Thompson, who lives near Linden, had his barn and granary burned Wednesday night with 40 barrels of corn, 50 or 60 bushels of apples, also some wheat and rye and farming implements.

In the village of Orleans only one man and wife, A. J. Parr and Mrs. Parr, are now living of the many who have owned property and were once citizens of the village in old times.

On Tuesday evening, December 26, at the home of the bride's parents, near Fauquier Springs, Mr. Walter Robinson was united in marriage to Miss Oasie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Smith.

The cattle industry has proved a profitable venture for the majority of our farmers during the year 1899. Two hundred and fifty loads of fat cattle were shipped from Restortown, averaging twenty head to the car. This makes a total of five thousand cattle shipped.—Warrenton Virginian.

Delay in the Treatment of bronchitis, which generally begins with a Chill, hot feverish attacks and a feeling of exhaustion, develops into very serious complications. Pain Killer taken in hot water, as well as rubbing the chest with it clear, will speedily cure. Avoid substitutes, there is but one Pain Killer, Perry Davis'. Price 25c. and 50c.

First Treaty Between China and Mexico.  
The negotiations between China and Mexico for a general treaty of trade, navigation, and immigration have been concluded and the document signed.

Senor Aspiriz, the Mexican Ambassador, signed for his country, and Minister Wu Ting-fang for China. The ceremony was witnessed by the staffs of the Mexican Embassy and the Chinese Legation. This is the first treaty ever entered into between the countries. Three copies of the instrument were executed—one in Chinese, one in Spanish and a third in English. This is a departure in diplomatic usage, as the extra copy is usually in French, that being the recognized language in diplomacy.

Each side to the treaty is given favored nation treatment in the matter of imports, and Mexico is to have "extra territoriality" in China, the same as is now employed by other first-class powers. Immigration of citizens of the two countries is left unhampered, and under this provision it is expected that the latent resources of Mexico will be developed by Chinese labor.

Rev. Robert W. Patton, of Roanoke, has declined the call to St. Mark's church in Richmond.

Official announcement has been made of the appointment of Mr. J. G. Rodgers of Philadelphia as superintendent of the New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Railroad Company, with headquarters at Cape Charles, Va., to take effect January 1, 1900 vice Mr. R. H. Nicholas, resigned.

At Bull Run.  
Comrade Chas. Elms, of Mechanicsville, N. Y., was struck by a piece of shell which later caused severe heart trouble. He says:

"At second Bull Run a piece of shell lodged in my shoulder, and later rheumatism set in, which in turn affected my heart to such extent that several doctors pronounced my case incurable. Dr. Miles' New Heart Cure relieved my pains, shortened my breath and enabled me to work also to sleep soundly, and prolonged my life."

DR. MILES' Heart Cure  
Is sold by all druggists on guarantee. First bottle benefits or money back. Root on heart and nerves sent free. Dr. Miles Medical Company, Elkhart, Ind.

# 2 CHEAP ITEMS FOR MEN

A Splendid Heavy Weight Winter Undershirt, Natural Gray, with double shield bosom and back, pearl buttons, ribbed Cuffs and bottoms, close knitted and fleecy. Former price, 50 cents; Closing Out Price, 37½ cents. Sizes 34 to 40. Drawers to match, 30 to 40.

A Beautiful White Wool Shirt, Heavy Weight, Ribbed Cuffs and Bottoms, pearl buttons, French Neck, one pair to a box. Former price, 75 cents; Closing Out price, 50 cents. Sizes, 34 to 46. Drawers to match, sizes 30 to 40. Every man who wears Undershirts at all should see these 2 Lots.

## E. W. Stearns, Opera House Dry Goods Store.

# CUT PRICES!

Furniture, Carpets, Matting, Rugs, China, Glass, Cutlery.

Annual Meeting of Stock Holders.  
The Stockholders of The Free Lance Newspaper, Book and Job Printing Company of Fredericksburg, Va., are hereby notified that the annual meeting of the company will be held at the Office of The Free Lance Newspaper, in Fredericksburg, Va., on

SATURDAY, DECEMBER, 30th 1899, at 2 p. m. for the election of a President and Directors and for such other business, as may lawfully come before this meeting.

S. J. QUINN, Secretary  
nov28-td  
Greetings!  
We extend to all our sincere thanks for your patronage during this year, which was the largest we have ever experienced.

## E. C. NINDE, Double Furniture and Carpet Stores.

Wishing all a Happy and Prosperous New Year,  
We remain, Respectfully yours,  
Strasburger & Son

Sale of Valuable REAL ESTATE  
IN SPOT YVANIA COUNTY, VA  
In pursuance of decree of the Circuit Court of Fredericksburg in Beasley vs. Beasley and Jackson vs. Beasley of December 9, 1899, the undersigned special commissioners will expose to sale at public auction in front of the Exchange Hotel, in Fredericksburg, Va., at 12 o'clock m., on

Wednesday, Jan. 3, 1900,  
all the land of the late William Beasley de- scribed in said suits, being a tract of about 194 acres in the "Mineral Belt" in the county of Spotsylvania, Va., adjoining White Hall and Randolph Gold Mines, and supposed to contain gold, pyrites and other minerals. The tract is well watered and well wooded, and is about 2 miles from Parker's Depot, on the F. & P. R. R.

Terms of sale: One-third of the purchase money in cash and the remainder in two equal installments on the first and second dates of sale, with 5 per cent. interest thereon, said deferred payments to be secured by a lien on the property, but a purchaser shall have the privilege of paying all cash.

ST. GEO. R. FITZGUGH, JAMES L. POWELL, Special Commissioners.  
Virginia. In the Circuit Court of the City of Fredericksburg:  
I, James P. Corbin, clerk of the said court, do hereby certify that the bond required of the Special Commissioners by the decree rendered in said causes on the 9th day of December, 1899, has been duly given.

Given under my hand as clerk of the said court, this 11th day of December, 1899.  
JAMES P. CORBIN, Clerk  
CHRISTMAS BARGAINS  
We invite everybody to come and examine our stock before buying. Your wants in our line will be satisfied at

ROCK BOTTOM PRICES  
Great inducements in Men's and Boys' Clothing, Ladies' and Gents' Shoes, Boots, Gents' Furnishing Goods, etc.  
A trial will convince you that it is to your interest to deal with us.

STAR CLOTHING HOUSE.  
ROBERT E. BOZEL & CO.,  
307 Commerce st.  
We are now manufacturing FIRST-CLASS ICE FROM PURE SPRING WATER.

This ice is an absolutely pure article, because the water is boiled and filtered before being frozen.  
Get the best article at the Lowest Price by purchasing from  
The Fredericksburg Ice Co.  
sep19-8m

C. W. JONES next year.